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# AIRGRAM

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FROM : Amembassy MONTEVIDEO

DATE: December 31, 1965.  
~~January 1, 1966~~

SUBJECT : Treaty of Limits with Argentina Ratified.

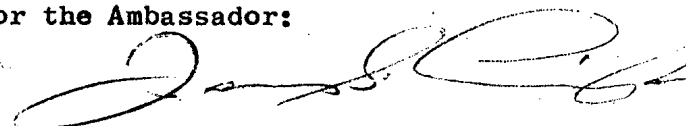
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On December 28, the Uruguayan Senate unanimously (23 present of 31-man Chamber) ratified the long debated Treaty of Limits with Argentina. (The Chamber of Deputies had ratified the Treaty some months ago.) Promulgation by the National Council of Government is a mere formality. The Treaty defines the complex water boundary (Rio de la Plata and Uruguay River), with its hundreds of islands and islets, and the settlement clears legal obstacles to the advancement of projects badly wanted by the Uruguayans, such as bridges and the Salto Grande power project.

The treaty ratification has received widespread approval in the press, with only minor complaints that Uruguay came out second best. The Argentine Ambassador was present in the Senate Chamber when the vote was taken and received informal verbal salutes from the floor by individual senators. The press has given generous play to Argentine Foreign Minister Zavala ORTIZ' cable of congratulations and pledge to closer Argentine-Uruguayan relations in the future.

Several highly placed Foreign Office representatives, including legal advisor GROS Espiell, have told an Embassy officer that the Treaty terms are the best that "little" Uruguay could expect to get and expressed their general satisfaction, even relief. To them, whatever may be the economic obstacles in the way of the completion of desired developmental projects, at least the deck has been cleared of the central international legal problem.

For the Ambassador:



James S. Cunningham  
First Secretary of Embassy

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Drafted by: JSCunningham:mwc 12/30/65

Contents and Classification Approved by:

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4